friction and debris or contamination carried by the hose. The device is a slotted cylinder having a through-bore and which may be installed onto the hose at any point along its length. Preferred embodiments have flared open ends and a spiral slot which may be expanded to accommodate hoses of different diameter. The device may be "cocked" with respect to the hose to provide friction and apply an axially directed force to the hose.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice. Delete lines 17-21 on Claim page 2 of 2. Add new claims 4-13 as indicated below:

--4. (New) A device which may be installed onto a hose at any point along its length to assist in guiding said hose onto a spool while protecting a user's hand from friction and debris or contamination carried by said hose, and through which installed device said hose may freely slide in a direction corresponding to said length, the device comprising:

a sleeve formed by a wall approximately circumferentially disposed about a central axis, said wall comprising first, second, third, and fourth ends, and substantially defining a through bore, between said first and second ends, in which to receive said hose; and

a slot formed in said wall between said third and fourth ends and spanning between said first and second ends, said slot being adapted for retention of said hose in said through-bore of an installed device .

5. (New) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

a length of said slot may be increased to a length sufficient to accommodate a diameter of said hose for transverse placement of said hose into said through-bore.

6. (New) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said slot is arranged substantially parallel to an axis of said device.

7. (New) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said slot is arranged in oblique alignment with an axis of said device.

8. (New) An apparatus according to claim 4, said first end comprising:

a beveled opening adapted to reduce structural interference with structure carried by an in-travelling hose.

9. (New) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said device is constructed and